

## INFORMATION PAPER

DAMO-SSF  
1 February 2001

SUBJECT: Foreign Area Officer (FAO) In-Country Training (ICT) Program in Ivory Coast

1. Purpose. To provide a summary of the FAO in-country training program and facilities available in Ivory Coast to assist in selection and preparation of replacement personnel. Projected in-country trainees should use the information provided to contact incumbent trainees and/or FAO supervisor as early as possible for more detailed information.

### 2. Facts.

#### a. Summary of Program:

(1) Tour Length: Approximately 12 months

(2) Normal Arrival/Departure Dates: July through July of the following year.

(3) Program Description: Two FAOs per year conducts ICT in the Ivory Coast. The FAOs are attached to the USDAO in Abidjan. The FAOs conduct extensive regional travel and language training, as resources permit.

(4) Prerequisites: CPT/MAJ; branch immaterial; French language 2/2/2.

(5) Language Instruction Availability: Tutors are available. The embassy also offers French language courses. You can enroll anytime, even after a course has begun. Emphasis is on listening and speaking. A French course for foreign speakers is offered by the University of Abidjan.

#### b. Property:

##### (1) Government:

(a) Vehicle: The current FAO vehicle is a 1999 Mitsubishi Pajero. This vehicle is Government property for use in support of regional travel. It is for official use only. It is not a substitute for personal transportation.

(b) Furniture: The FAO residence comes fully furnished, to include major appliances.

(2) Personal:

(a) POV: The FAO is authorized to ship one POV. This should be done very early since shipping time takes no less than 3 months and clearing local customs may take an additional 3 months. Public transportation is adequate. Many U.S. personnel prefer to purchase used vehicles on the economy. Check with sponsor before shipping POV. Unleaded gas is not readily available outside the capital. Removing catalytic converters and expanding fuel tube diameters is neither necessary nor recommended, before arriving in Cote d'Ivoire. USAA does not insure vehicles in this country. Clements and some other companies offer insurance coverage. Arranging this in advance is recommended.

(b) Household Goods: FAOs are normally authorized partial JFTR, since most furnishings and major appliances are provided. The FAO should bring only personal items, clothes, decorative items such as wall hangings, kitchen and gardening supplies, and entertainment items such as computers, stereos and televisions. Incoming FAOs should coordinate with resident FAOs for recommended items to bring as accompanied and unaccompanied baggage.

c. Housing: FAO is assigned fully-furnished quarters, based upon family size, by the Embassy Housing Board. Since the Government covers rental costs, the FAO does not receive OHA/BAQ.

d. Support Facilities:

(1) Medical: The Embassy Health Unit can handle all minor illnesses and first aid. Non-life threatening emergencies are referred to the local hospital, which is quite adequate. More serious cases are evacuated to Europe. For dental care, the Health Unit refers patients to local French dentist. Major dental work should be accomplished prior to arrival.

(2) Dependent Schooling: The Abidjan International School is K-12 and DoDDS accredited.

(3) PX/Commissary: The embassy operates a cooperative that has a limited quantity of U.S. products. The prices are very expensive (1.5 - 3 times US prices) due to transportation costs.

(4) Recreation. The Post operates a recreation center with a restaurant, bar, tennis courts and video rental store. The Abidjan International School has additional recreational facilities. The Marine House has a bar, weight room and a pool. The Community Liaison Office (CLO) offers information and coordinates a wide variety of activities within the local community.

e. Rater/Senior Rater: ARMA-rater  
DATT-Sr. Rater

f. Address:

(1) Mail- USDAO Abidjan, 2010 Abidjan Place, Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20521-2010

(2) Message- USDAO ABIDJAN IV// or AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN//FAO//

g. Phone #: DAO: 011-225-20214881

h. FAOs in Training/Programmed:

CPT Edwards, Steve 0108-0208  
MAJ Bryson, Scott 0108-0208

3. Additional Information:

a. Entry requirements (NOTE: *This information is subject to change. Recommend incoming FAOs check DoD 4500.54G, Foreign Area Clearance Guide and w/sponsor NLT 90 days before PCS*). FAOs and family members require Official (maroon) passports. Visas are required if you don't have a 90 day return ticket to the US. Health/ immunization requirements: international health certificate with a yellow fever vaccination. Anti-malaria treatment should be started before arrival in country. Other vaccinations are recommended. See above references.

b. Bring materials for completion of CGSC and French language materials.

c. Business clothing is Embassy attire. FAOs will be authorized a Civilian Clothing Allowance and should apply on arrival on station. Class As and dress blues are required items, but only worn on special occasions.

d. Recommend shipment of full weight allowance of consumables IAW the JTR.

e. Regional Travel Priorities:

Priority 1: Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Nigeria, Dem Rep of Congo, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda, South Africa, Rwanda.

Priority 2: Niger, Cote d' Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Cameroon, Tanzania, Angola and/or Mozambique, Botswana and/or Zimbabwe .

Priority 3: Burkina Faso, Central African Rep, Mauritania, Namibia, Zambia.

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